

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. Applicant has canceled claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-12, 14-18, 23, and 26-33, and amended claims 4, 9, 19, 24, and 25. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by this amendment. Thus, claims 4, 9, 19-22, 24, and 25 remain pending in the case. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed July 15, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 stands currently objected to for informalities. Claim 15 has been canceled, rendering this objection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 16-18 have been canceled, thus obviating the rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10-12, 14, 15, 23 and 26-33 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,062,105 ("McKnight") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,457,080 ("Sherman"). Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10-12, 14, 15, 23 and 26-33 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

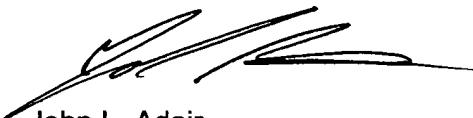
Claims 4, 9, 19-22, 24 and 25 stand currently objected to as dependent from rejected base claims, but allowable if rewritten in independent format. Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter is appreciated. Claims 4, 9, 19, 24, and 25 have been rewritten in independent format, and claims 20-22 depend from claim 19. Accordingly, the objection is obviated and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 4, 9, 19-22, 24 and 25. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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